Land for Housing Projects

*471.SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI : Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether many urban housing projects are hampered due to non-availability of Government land and high cost of acquiring it from private parties;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government would include the cost of acquiring land in deciding the share of central funds to be allocated under various housing schemes?

THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) and (b) 'Land' and 'Colonisation' being a State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of State Governments to take measures for increased supply of land for adequate shelter. The non-availability of adequate land for housing project has drawn the attention of Government. In pursuance of the resolution adopted by the National Conference of State Ministers of Housing, Urban Development and Municipal Administration on "Affordable Housing for All" held on 20.01.2009, a communication has been sent to all States on 24.03.2009 for initiation of steps in line with the resolution adopted in the Conference that availability of land for housing be augmented to meet the shortages and to keep pace with the increasing population in urban areas. A need for providing land for housing free of cost or at nominal cost for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS); and at controlled prices for the Low Income Group (LIG) and Middle Income Group (MIG) acknowledged in the Conference has also been highlighted in the communication. Further the Government has launched a scheme of Affordable Housing in Partnership to encourage increased supply of developed land at reduced cost.

(c) Under Basic Services to Urban Poor (BSUP) and Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) components of Jawahar Lal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) land cost is financed by the Centre for acquisition of private land for scheme/projects in the North Eastern States and hilly States *viz.* Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Jammu and Kashmir.

SAI hostel in Orissa

†*472. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the Sports Authority of India (SAI) hostel situated at Dhenkanal in Orissa is on the verge of closure;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, the Government's plan to make this hostel more spacious and effective?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (DR. M.S. GILL) : (a) to (c) Sports Authority of India (SAI) is operating a Training Centre at Dhenkanal with hostel facility for 45 trainees, which has been in operation since 1992. Government of Orissa and SAI entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in 2003, which, *inter-alia*, provides that the State Government shall place at the disposal of SAI the hostel and playing facilities for operation of the Centre. The MOU further stipulated that the facilities of the Centre may also be used by the State Government for organizing sports events subject to the same not interfering the regular training programme of SAI and further subject to stipulation that under no circumstances the facilities shall be used for non-sporting purposes.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

The Training Centre has been facing acute operational problems for the past three years due to unauthorized occupation of the indoor hall by the local athletic association and frequent diversion of the main ground for various non-sporting activities, which are violative of the MoU entered into between SAI and the State Government. This matter has been taken up with the State Government. A mutually acceptable solution is being worked out. SAI will run the Centre to full capacity as soon as the operational issues are resolved to mutual satisfaction.

Major and medium irrigation projects

*473. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the execution status of major and medium irrigation projects undertaken in Rajasthan during the Tenth Five Year Plan, showing spill-over from earlier plans separately, indicating their estimated cost and cost over-run, if any;

(b) the total area of land estimated to be irrigated on completion thereof and what has ben achieved, so far;

(c) whether the Centre and the State are losing crores due to cost over-runs in delayed irrigation projects;

(d) if so, whether Government has made any investigations to find the causes for delay; and

(e) the action proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) to (c) Irrigation being State subject, planning, execution and funding of the irrigation projects is within the purview of the concerned State Governments based on their own priority. However, as per information made available by the Government of Rajasthan, the execution status of major and medium irrigation projects undertaken in Rajasthan, during Tenth Five Year Plan indicating original sanctioned cost, revised estimated cost, expenditure incurred up to Ninth Plan, expenditure incurred during Tenth Plan, Expenditure incurred during Eleventh Plan (during 2007-08 and 2008-09), total expenditure incurred up to March 2009, total area estimated to be irrigated on completion, actual achievement up to March 2009 and expected year of completion is given in the enclosed Statement-I (*See* below).

The cost overrun normally occurs due to time overrun, price escalation, shortage of funds with Stage Governments, land acquisition and resettlement and rehabilitation problems, liberalization of resettlement & rehabilitation policies, contractual problems, change in design or scope of the projects by the State Government, geological surprises requiring change in design of project components, delay in execution of work required to be executed by other than Irrigation/Water Resources department such as Railway Crossing, Highway crossing etc.

Keeping in view that shortage of funds with State Governments was one of the most important factors resulting in delay in completion of ongoing projects and in order to expedite completion of ongoing irrigation projects, the Government of India launched Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) during 1996-97 to provide financial assistance to the State Government. Details of the irrigation projects of Rajasthan assisted under AIBP indicating name of the project, their present stusus, grant released during 2008-09, grant released during 2009-10 and cumulative central assistance released since inclusion of the AIBP is given in the enclosed Statement-II.